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the prehistoric ateliers along the North Syrian coast testify to an antiquity far earlier than anything from Mesopotamia or Babylonia, and it is here we may look for the oldest ancestors of the Amorites.

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### THE BOOK OF JUDGES<sup>x</sup>

The present volume is considerably more than a commentary; and as it belongs to no series, its aims, scope, and method invite more attention. As the author observes, "The book might well be termed a collection of materials for the early history of Israel's residence in Canaan."

The work is also not merely "another commentary" made to stand alongside such works even as Moore's *Judges*. The author aims, as all good commentators should, to advance the knowledge of the subject, and proceeds to his task with a scientific grasp of the problems involved that is stimulating to follow. As a first-hand student of Babylonian culture he admits that his efforts in this direction have revolutionized his conception of Old Testament studies; and this can well be believed from the book as a whole.

The introduction is noteworthy for 67 pages devoted to "External Information Bearing on the Period of the Judges." In this section the writer surveys, in admirable fashion for such brief space, Babylonian and Eastern Mediterranean civilization from the appearance of the Semites in Babylonia to the period of the Judges of Israel. The author has formed his own synthesis on most of the topics discussed, but on disputed points wisely gives in copious footnotes the opinions of scholars who differ from him. This section will prove a most valuable chart of outside events bearing on early Israel, for all Old Testament students and particularly for those who have not a thorough grasp of Babylonian and Egyptian development.

The book is closely packed with information; one might almost say too closely packed. That is the writer follows the custom of giving the biblical text in large type and the comments below in finer print. This works well in smaller volumes where the notes are not too numerous; but in so exhaustive a work as the present it fills the page largely with fine print that is wearisome to the eye. One could wish the writer had either

<sup>x</sup> *The Book of Judges, with Introduction and Notes.* By C. F. Burney. London: Rivingtons, 1918. cxxviii+528 pages. 21s.

placed the biblical text in finer type or omitted it altogether in order that the more important notes might have been placed in larger type.

The author follows the usual critical analysis of the sources of Judges, but not without variations. He is definitely of the opinion that the J and E documents extend through Joshua and Judges as far as I Sam., chap. 12. His most noteworthy departure from accepted opinion on the sources is in his conception of the growth of Judges. He finds no Deuteronomic Book of Judges. The main editing of the older sources is all pre-Deuteronomic and the editor is regarded as of the Elohistic school and designated in the notes, accordingly, as R<sup>e2</sup>. This change is not so considerable as might at first appear; and the conclusion is quite in line with what might be expected from a closer scrutiny of the materials.

In addition to the main commentary, under the title of "Additional Notes," a valuable discussion is given of over a dozen topics that are important for a knowledge of the period, e.g., "Yahweh or Yahu. Originally an Early Amorite Deity"; "Early Identification of Yahweh with the Moon God." Under the latter topic the discussion of the name "Abraham" might have been carried one step farther by consulting H. F. Lutz's *Early Babylonian Letters from Larsa*.

The criticism may be offered that the author seems inclined to give undue weight, at times, to the early traditions of Israel, in their present form; and is over-ready to place them on a par with history while a more searching criticism of the processes of these traditions would have simplified, considerably, a number of the historical problems involved.

The book is provided with double indexes and a series of maps most excellently done. All earnest students of the early life of Israel will be very grateful for this new work, which clearly puts the problems of Israel's origins and settlement in relation to its world-setting and historical sequence.

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#### ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT IN CANAAN<sup>1</sup>

The British Academy did well to keep up the Schweich Lectures throughout the period of the war. The loss to scholarship due to the war is in any case terrific and irremediable, and we welcome every fresh

<sup>1</sup> *Israel's Settlement in Canaan. The Biblical Tradition and Its Historical Background.* [The Schweich Lectures at the British Academy, 1917.] By C. F. Burney. London: Oxford University Press, 1918. xi+104 pages+vi maps. 3s. 6d.